



City of San Marcos

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NEWS

May 27, 2010
For Immediate Release

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City Shuts Down Water Well

The City of San Marcos has shut down a well that supplies water to 1.7% of the system supply after a raw water sample tested positive for E. coli, a bacterial contaminant. No boil water notice is required and the City water utility is taking action to flush and disinfect the well.

The City received the positive test result this afternoon (May 27). This positive result was in the raw untreated water from the Soyars Well on Hunter Road, a City well that supplies 1.7% of the total system supply.

Water system personnel are working to restore water quality to this well. All raw water is disinfected prior to distribution as potable water. To assure the City's treated water maintains a high quality, samples from the water distribution system are taken and analyzed for the presence of bacterial contamination on a monthly basis. **No E. coli bacteria have been detected in the distribution system samples.** Bacteria are commonly present in the environment and raw water supply sources.

The following actions are being taken by the City:

- The well that tested positive for E. coli has been discontinued from active service.
- Water System employees will begin flushing the well in order to provide fresh water to the well.
- Disinfection of the well will be utilized if flushing is unsuccessful.
- Further bacterial samples will be collected to confirm the results.

The City is working closely with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to insure all regulatory requirements are adhered to and public health is protected at all times. The City will update media outlets as necessary until the situation is fully addressed.

Attached is the required regulatory Public Notice.

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The City of San Marcos (Public Water Supply ID# 1050001) had a water well that tested positive for *E. coli*.

E. coli bacteria were found in the raw water supply samples on May 27, 2010. These bacteria can make you sick, and are a particular concern for infants, young children and people with weakened immune systems.

This positive *E. coli* sample result was in the **raw untreated water** from one of the City's wells which supplies only 1.7% of the total system supply. Raw water from this well and all of the City's wells is disinfected with chlorine prior to storage and being sent into the distribution system for public consumption. To assure the City's treated water maintains a high quality, samples from the water distribution system are taken and analyzed for the presence of bacterial contamination on a monthly basis. **No *E. coli* bacteria have been detected in the distribution system samples.**

WHAT SHOULD I DO? WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

• Fecal indicators are microbes whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term health effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems.

As stated previously, raw water from this well and all of the City's water supplies is disinfected by chlorine treatment prior to being sent into the distribution system for public consumption. Testing for the presence of bacterial contamination in the water distribution system is conducted each month. **No *E. coli* bacteria have been detected in the distribution system samples.**

The symptoms above are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice. People at increased risk should seek advice from their health care providers about drinking this water.

Corrective action: This well has been discontinued from active system use until negative samples are obtained. Water system employees will begin flushing the well in order to provide fresh water to the well. Disinfection of the well will be utilized if flushing is unsuccessful. Bacterial samples will be taken to confirm the results.

We will inform you when tests show no bacteria. For more information, please contact Public Services – Water/Wastewater at (512) 393-8010. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by the City of San Marcos. Public Water System ID#: 1050001.
Date distributed: May 27, 2010.